



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Wyoming State Office
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009

Dear Reader:

This Record of Decision (ROD) approves the proposed amendments to the Buffalo and Platte River Resource Management Plans. The proposed plan amendments are described as the preferred alternative analyzed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Proposed Plan Amendments for the Powder River Basin Oil and Gas Project. The plan amendments provide guidance for managing BLM administered oil and gas activities within the Powder River Basin (PRB) in Campbell, Converse, Johnson, and Sheridan counties.

This ROD culminates a three-year process of a detailed analysis of the environmental effects of implementing the Powder River Basin Oil and Gas Project. On January 18, 2002, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the project. On January 17, 2003, BLM released the FEIS and Proposed Plan Amendments for the Powder River Basin Oil and Gas Project.

The FEIS was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and other regulations and statutes to fully disclose the potential environmental impacts that could result from implementation of the project and to solicit public comments and concerns. The EIS process was designed to inform the public of a proposal to develop oil and gas on the public lands in the PRB. BLM involved the public in the preparation of the FEIS by hosting numerous public meetings and accepting public comments during initial scoping and on the DEIS. BLM also provided information to the public through postings on web sites, news releases and mailings. The Medicine Bow - Routt National Forest, Thunder Basin National Grasslands (FS) and the State of Wyoming are cooperating agencies in this analysis. The FS will be issuing a separate ROD for FS administered lands.

The Proposed RMP Amendments were subject to a 30-day protest period that ended on February 18, 2003. The protests were reviewed by the BLM Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning, in Washington DC. This Record of Decision includes information about the protests and BLM's findings. No significant changes to the proposed plan were made as a result of the protest.

This is a land use planning decision made in accordance with 43 CFR 1600. The regulations in 43 CFR 1610.5-2 do not provide for any additional administrative review of this decision. However, implementation of this decision through future authorization of Applications for Permits to Drill (APD), and other actions, may be administratively reviewed at the time such authorizations are made. Such review will be conducted in accordance with regulations in 43 CFR 3165.3, 43 CFR 3165.4, and 43 CFR 4.

A copy of the ROD has been sent to affected governmental agencies and to those persons who commented on the FEIS or otherwise indicated to BLM that they wished to receive a copy of the ROD. You may view the ROD and FEIS on the BLM web site at <http://www.wy.blm.gov/nepa>. Copies of the ROD are available to the public at the following locations:

Bureau of Land Management
Wyoming State Office
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009

Bureau of Land Management
Buffalo Field Office
1425 Fort Street
Buffalo, Wyoming 82834

Bureau of Land Management
Casper Field Office
2987 Prospector Drive
Casper, Wyoming 82604-2968

BLM thanks all the individuals, organizations, businesses, and agencies who provided suggestions and comments on the Draft and Final EISs. Your help has been invaluable in preparing the EIS and this ROD.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Bennett", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert A. Bennett
State Director